



September 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of students in grades 4 and 7:

Students in B.C. and Chilliwack are achieving well. Many international tests in math, science and reading have shown this to be true. For more information please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/national-and-international>

To ensure that we continue to support successful learning, we routinely check our students' growth and achievement. An important part of this is the B.C. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) that is given to students in grades 4 and 7 each year. It assesses basic knowledge and skills in reading, writing and numeracy. The assessment is based on the redesigned curriculum developed by B.C. educators for our students. The FSA is not an optional assessment. All students are expected to participate unless they are among the few who are excused by principals. Some reasons a student might be excused include, special learning needs, ESL, illness or other special circumstances.

We need information in order to teach your children well. Our district is committed to developing and using many effective instruments and practices that create a profile of each student's performance. The FSA provides a small but important snapshot of how well our students are doing in relation to Ministry standards. When studied together with classroom-based assessments, the FSA helps us make decisions about district and school programs, staffing, resources and professional learning.

Facts about FSA

1. FSA has been revised to better reflect the redesigned curriculum. It will be administered during the period of October 3 – November 10, 2023.
2. FSA is a set of three assessments. It covers reading, writing and numeracy skills from the provincial curriculum. There is an electronic section and a hand-written section.
3. FSA includes a group collaboration activity, a choice of reading themes and a self-reflection section.
4. The FSA is written in sections that are spread over 6 weeks. Most students require a total of 1.5 hrs. of writing time. Students who need more time are allowed more time.



**Chilliwack
School District**

5. FSA scores are not letter grades or percentages; they do not count toward students' report card marks or promotion.
6. The handwritten section of your child's FSA is scored in Chilliwack, by Chilliwack educators.

Preparing your child to do their best on the FSA

1. Please talk to your child about the FSA. Explain why we complete it and cheer them on. This is a chance for Chilliwack's students to show what they know!
2. Make sure your child has lots of rest and good nutrition.
3. Read through the information and help your child try the sample questions at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment>

We appreciate your support because the FSA provides us with important evidence of student learning. Encourage your child to participate with pride! You can learn more about Chilliwack students' achievement here:

<https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/school-district/033>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rohan Arul-pragasam".

Rohan Arul-pragasam
Superintendent of Schools



Importance of FSA

From the Superintendent's Office - September 2023

What is the FSA?

The FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment) is a set of interactive exercises designed by teachers and education experts that reliably indicates how your child is doing in literacy (understanding and communicating with language) and numeracy (understanding and working with numbers).

Why is the FSA Important?

To ensure that we continue to support successful learning, we routinely check our students' growth and achievement.

An important part of this is the B.C. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) which is written by students in grades 4 and 7 each year. The FSA assesses basic knowledge and skills in literacy and numeracy. The FSA provides a systems level accountability check to ensure that we are delivering aligned learning experiences for all.

In Chilliwack we use this assessment to inform our instruction, in-service, and our resource allocation for the betterment of student learning.

**Student participation on the FSA can greatly
inform instruction, in-service,
and resource allocation that benefits
students and staff.**

How Can Parents Help?

- Talk to your child about the FSA. Explain why we complete it and cheer them on. This is a chance for Chilliwack's students to show what they know!
- Ensure your child gets lots of rest and good nutrition.
- Read through the information and help your child try the [Sample Questions](#)
- Learn more about FSA: [Assessment Information](#)



Facts:

1. FSA reflects B.C.'s redesigned curriculum.
2. FSA will be administered during the period of October 3 – November 10, 2023.
3. FSA is a set of interactive activities drawn from the provincial curriculum:
 - a. Literacy (understanding and communicating with language)
 - b. Numeracy (understanding and working with numbers)
4. There is an online section and a hand-written section.
5. FSA includes a group collaboration activity, a choice of reading themes and a self-reflection section.
6. FSA scores are not letter grades or percentages; they do not count toward students' report card marks or promotion.
7. The handwritten section of your child's FSA is scored in Chilliwack, by Chilliwack educators.